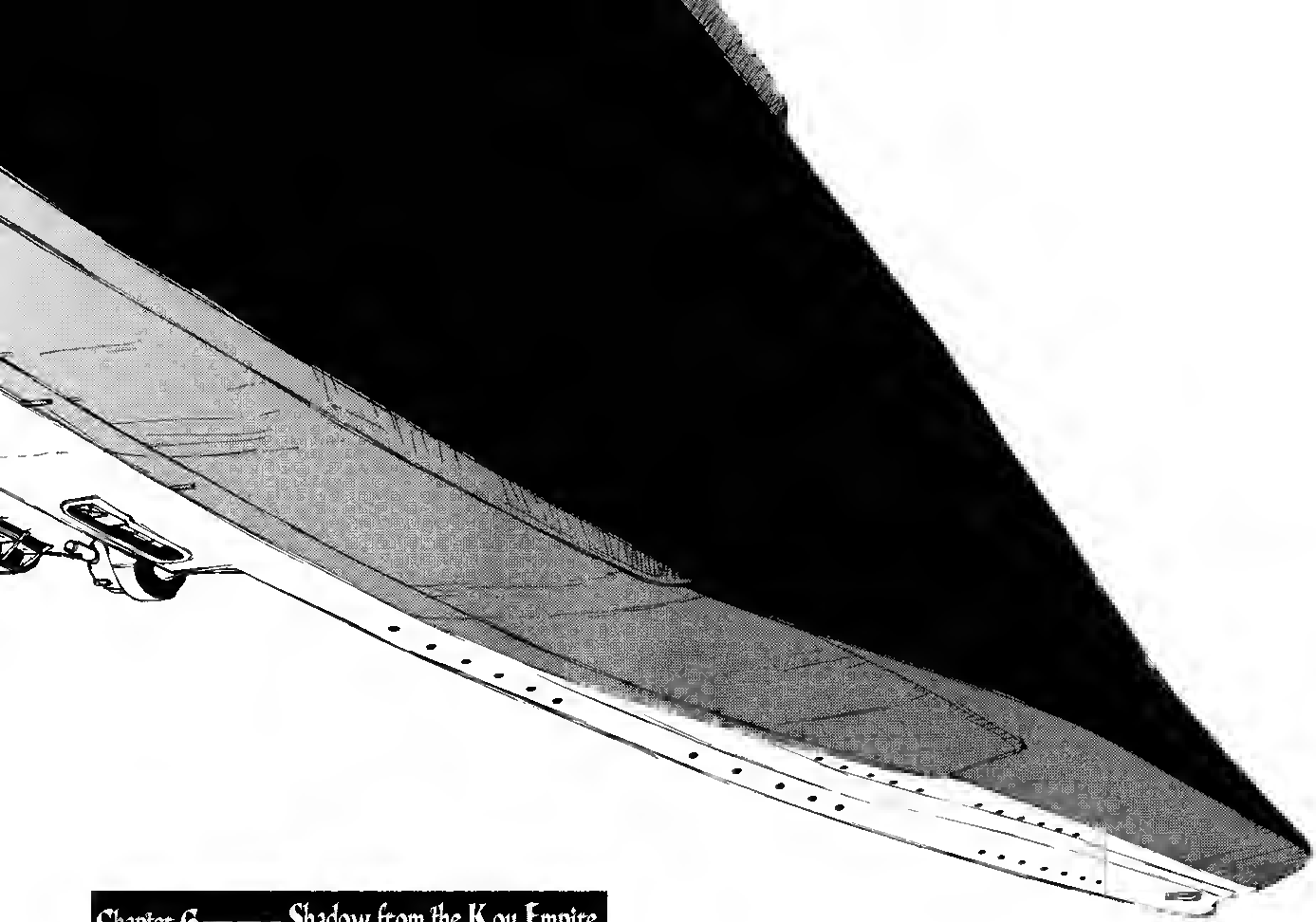
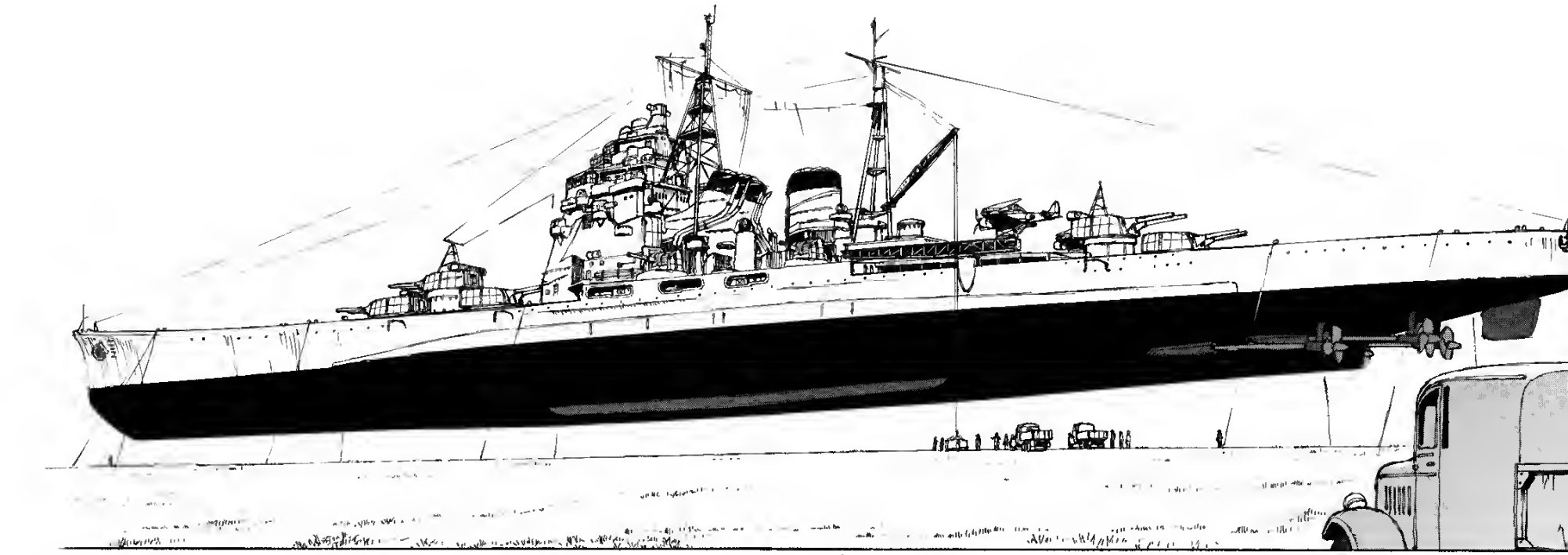
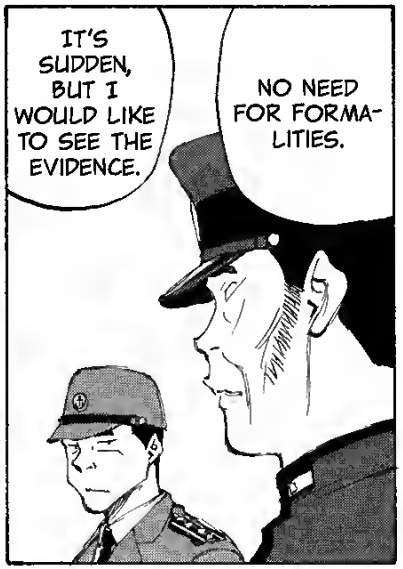
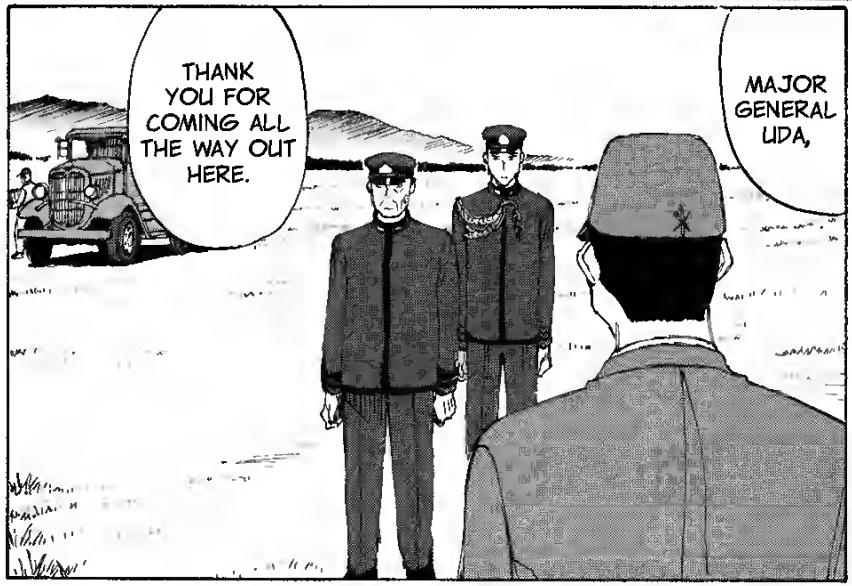


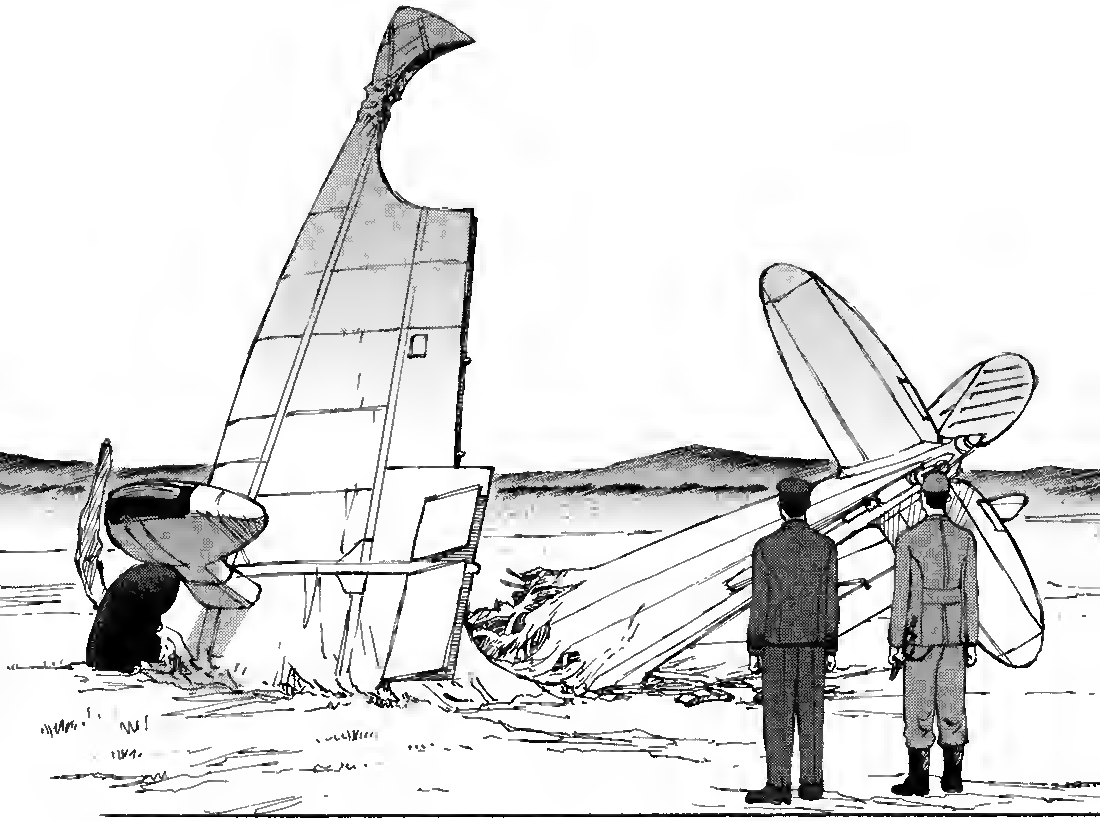
Chapter 6 —— Shadow from the Kou Empire

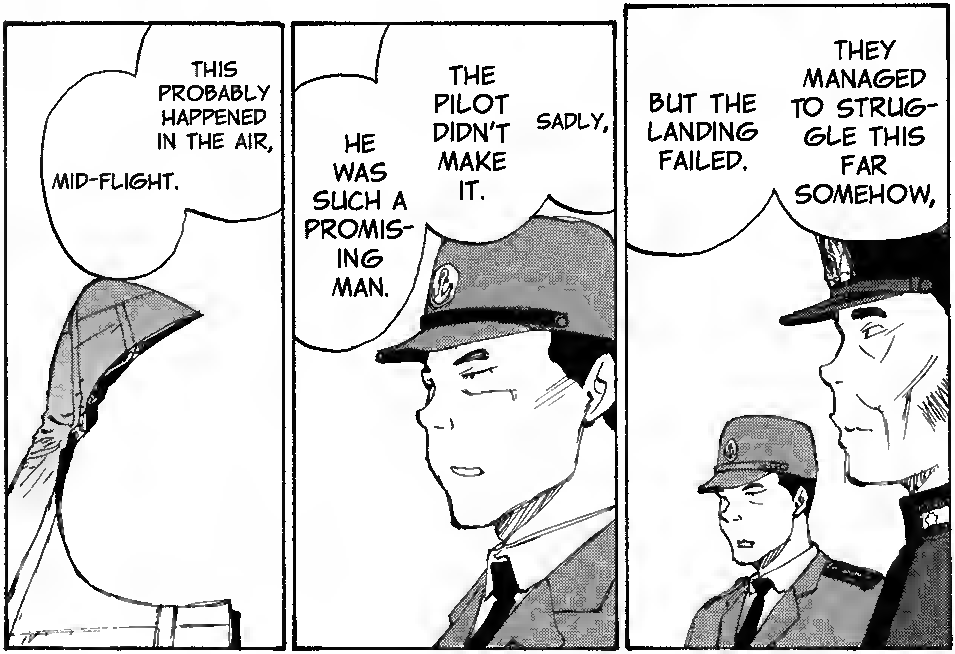


IT'S NOT FAR FROM THE BASE.
THE CAR IS WAITING.


IT'S SUDDEN, BUT I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE EVIDENCE.
NO NEED FOR FORMALITIES.


THANK YOU FOR COMING ALL THE WAY OUT HERE.
MAJOR GENERAL UDA,




THIS PROBABLY HAPPENED IN THE AIR, MID-FLIGHT.
HE WAS SUCH A PROMISING MAN.
THE PILOT DIDN'T MAKE IT.
SADLY,
BUT THE LANDING FAILED.
THEY MANAGED TO STRUGGLE THIS FAR SOMEHOW,

THAT'S HOW HE WAS ABLE TO CAUSE SO MUCH DAMAGE.
RIGHT.
I SEE.
HUH?
A MAGICIAN'S ARTIFICIAL ARM,
THEY APPEAR TO BE LOOKING FOR A MAGICIAN.
AND AS FOR THOSE THREE GIRLS...

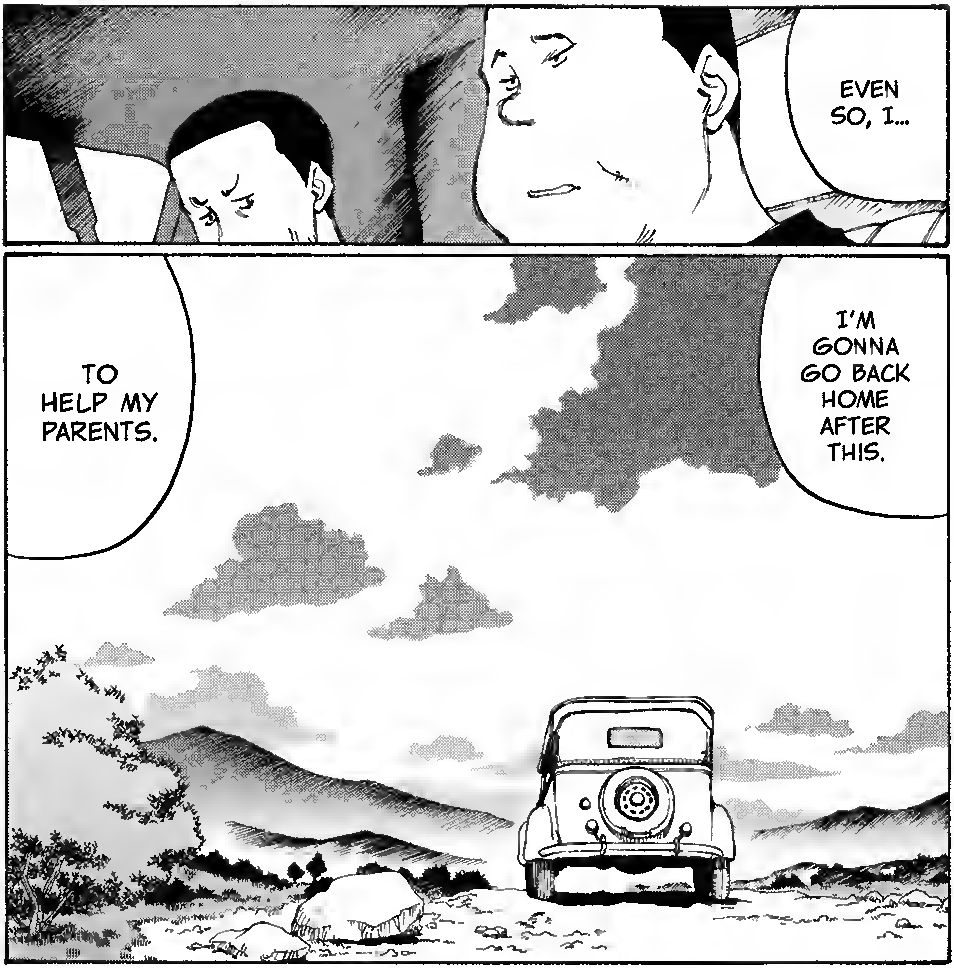
FWEW
BAP
CAN WE GO UNNOTICED?
WITH SOMETHING LIKE THAT WANDERING AROUND, WE CAN ONLY PROCEED AT LOW ALTITUDE.
*NATIONAL ARMY
OH YEAH! THAT PLACE WAS ORIGINALLY A QUANMIN JUN* BASE.
THERE'S THE BASE, BUT...
AND I DON'T THINK THIS PLACE HAS ANYTHING CONSIDERED STRATEGIC EITHER.
IT'S DISCON-NECTED FROM ANY ROUTE TO THE BATTLE-FIELD,
YI HOU NEVER SAID ANYTHING ABOUT A KOU NAVY BATTLESHIP COMING HERE!

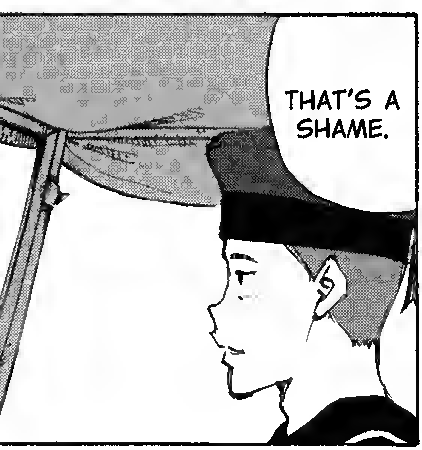
THAT BRAT AND GIRL.
THAT MEANS...
COMING HERE,
IT'S EASIER TO SPOT A BIG WARSHIP.
RATHER THAN SEARCHING FOR PEOPLE,
THEN ARE THEY DOING OUR WORK FOR US?
IF THE KOU NAVY IS AFTER THOSE TWO,
MEAT!
OH, VEGETABLES!
ANYWAYS, IT'S PROBABLY BEST TO RETURN AND REPORT.
LET'S GO BACK.

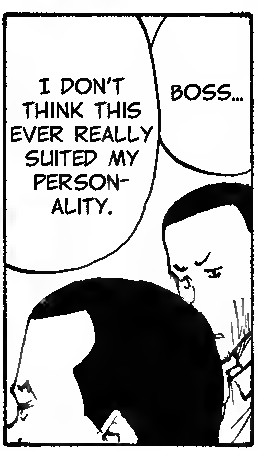
WELL THEN, WE'LL ESCORT YOU BACK TO TOWN.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR COOPER-ATION.
OFFICER TAKAGI.
UNDER-STOOD,
PLEASE TAKE GOOD CARE OF THEM.
YAMA-SHITA,

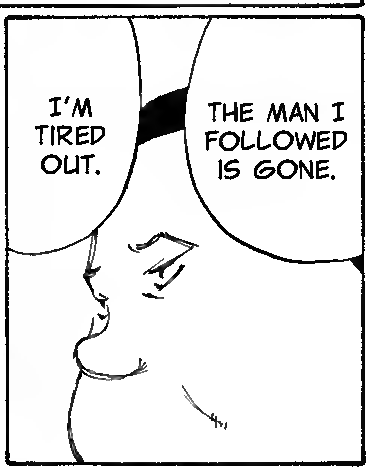
AS EXPECTED, YOU NAVY GUYS SURE DO PUT OFF A COOL VIBE,
EVEN WHEN YOU'RE ON THE LAND.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
I'VE MET MY FAIR SHARE OF NAVY MEN,
BUT EVERY LAST ONE IS ALWAYS LIKE THAT.
THERE'S REALLY NO COMPARING THEM TO ANYONE FROM THE ARMY.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
YOU LOOK PRETTY YOUNG,
BUT HAVE YOU ALREADY BEEN IN THE NAVY FOR A WHILE?

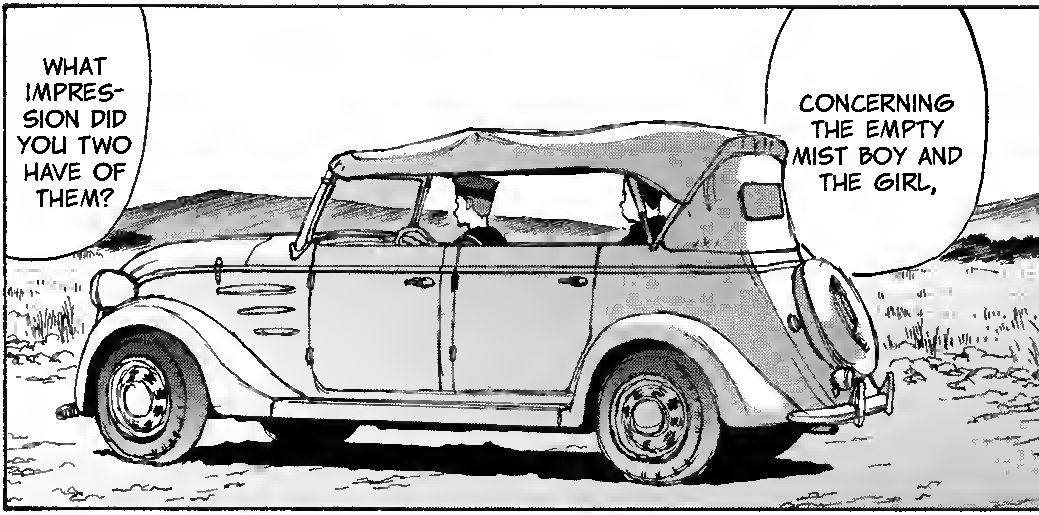
I BECAME ONE OF OFFICER TAKAGI'S MEN AND HAVE BEEN LOOKED UPON FAVORABLY.
IT'S STILL ONLY BEEN THREE YEARS SINCE I JOINED THE NAVY.
NOT AT ALL.
I MEAN, I COULDN'T SAY THAT ABOUT MYSELF YET.
I'D...
IT'S BEEN ABOUT TEN YEARS SINCE I CROSSED THE CONTI-NENT.
SOUNDS ABOUT RIGHT.
HAVE YOU TWO BEEN LONG IN YOUR PROFES-SIONS?
BEIN' TOLD THAT BY A SOLDIER SEEMS BACK-WARDS...
TO FURTHER OUR NATION'S CAUSE.
PLEASE CONTINUE
I BELIEVE THAT THE WORK YOU GENTLEMEN DO IS INDISPENSABLE TO THE ARMED FORCES.

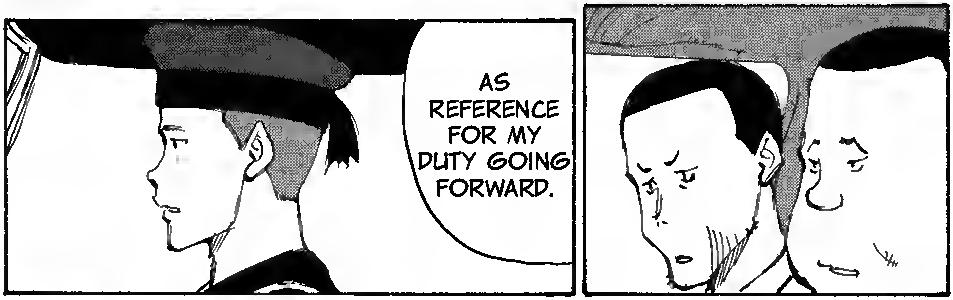

EVEN SO, I...
I'M GONNA GO BACK HOME AFTER THIS.
TO HELP MY PARENTS.

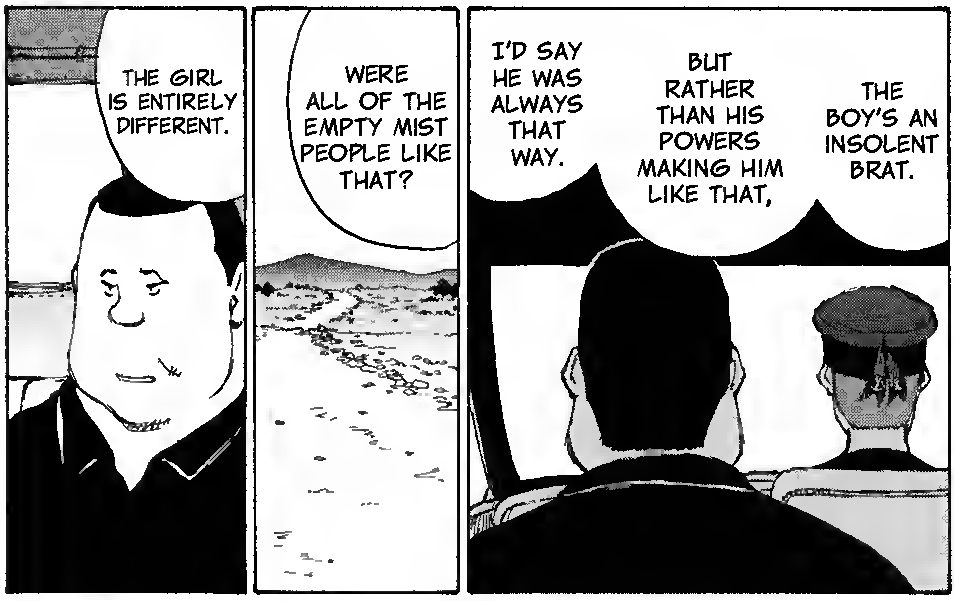

THAT'S A SHAME.


BOSS...
I DON'T THINK THIS EVER REALLY SUITED MY PERSONALITY.


THE MAN I FOLLOWED IS GONE.
I'M TIRED OUT.


WHAT IMPRESSION DID YOU TWO HAVE OF THEM?
CONCERNING THE EMPTY MIST BOY AND THE GIRL,


AS REFERENCE FOR MY DUTY GOING FORWARD.

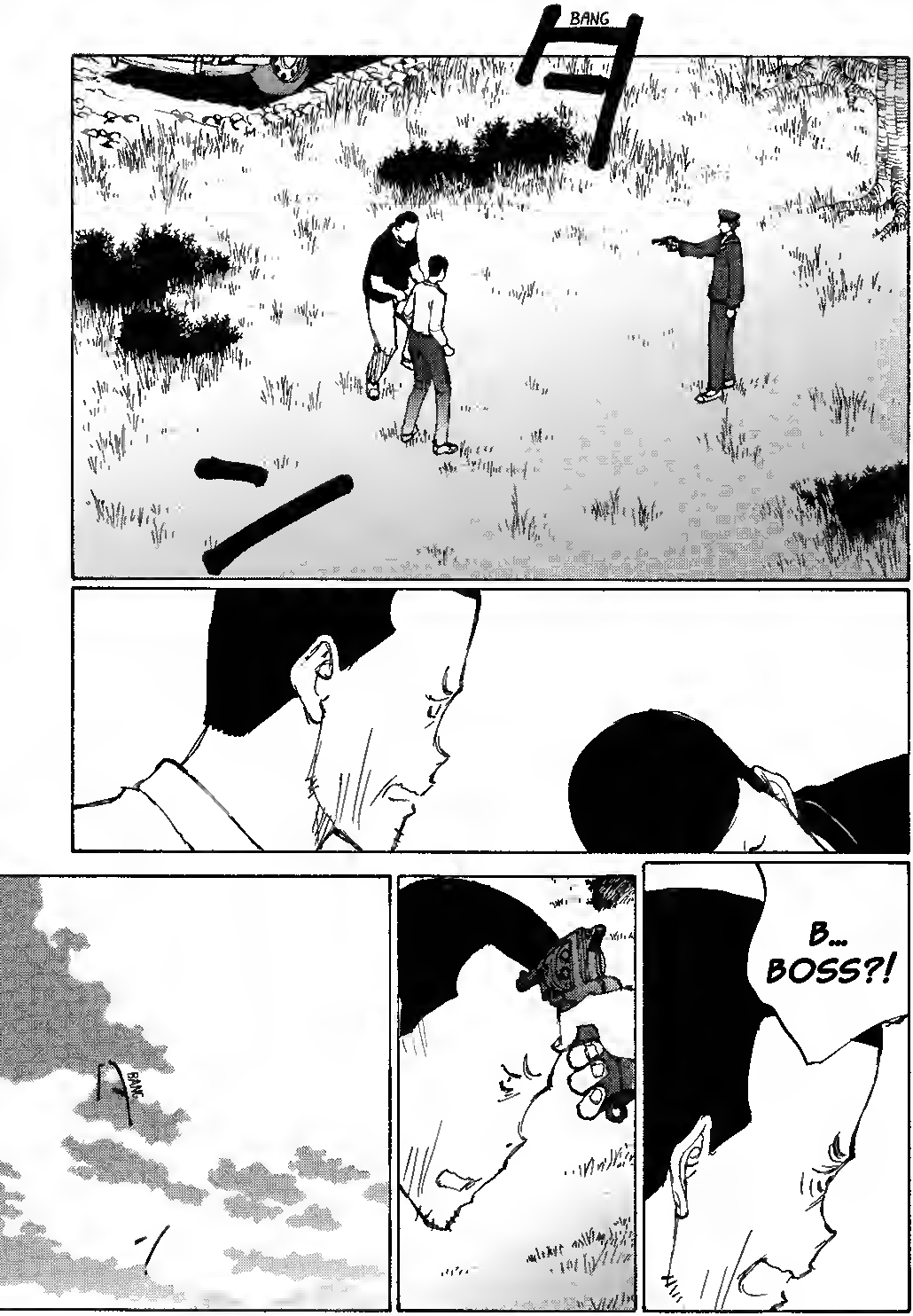

THE GIRL IS ENTIRELY DIFFERENT.
WERE ALL OF THE EMPTY MIST PEOPLE LIKE THAT?
I'D SAY HE WAS ALWAYS THAT WAY.
BUT RATHER THAN HIS POWERS MAKING HIM LIKE THAT,
THE BOY'S AN INSOLENT BRAT.

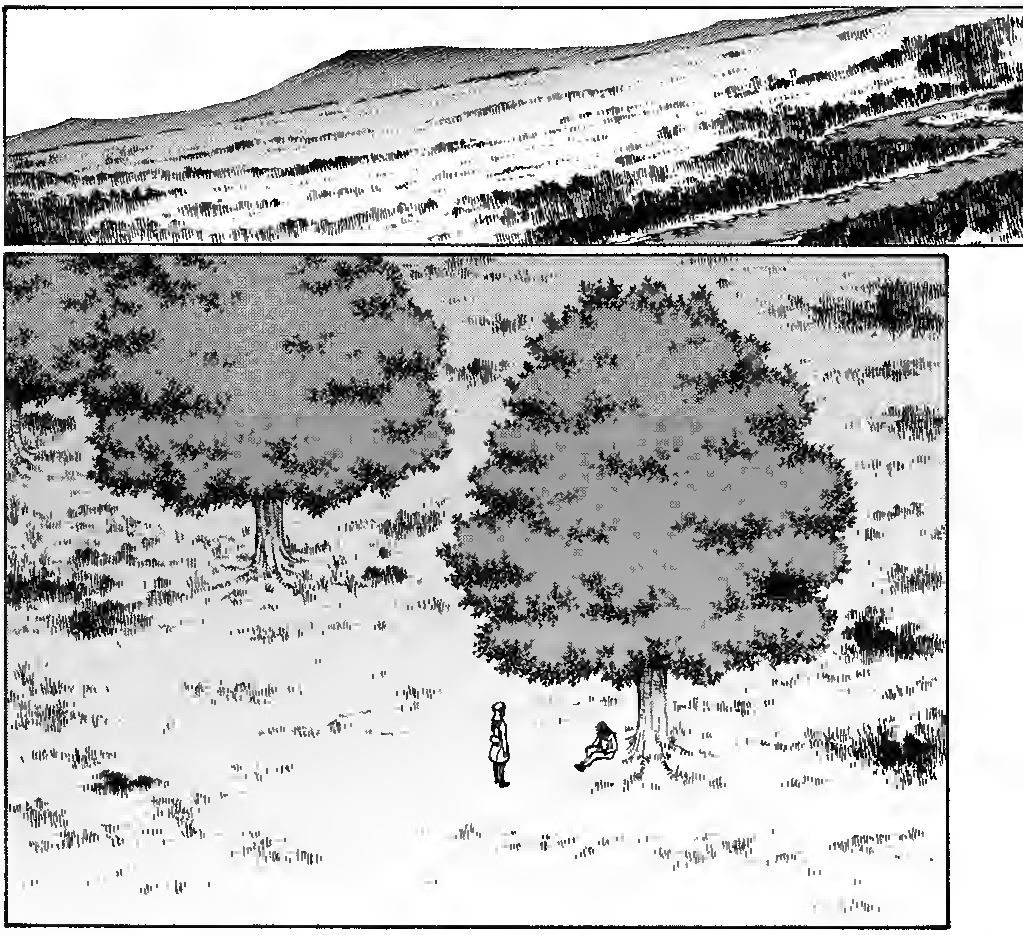
I ALSO GET THIS FEELING LIKE THERE'S MORE TO IT.
BUT...
A FEELING AS THOUGH SHE WERE OBEDIENTLY FOLLOWING THAT KID.
SHE EXUDES
FOR SOME REASON, IT'S LIKE SHE'S DELIBERATELY NOT LETTIN' HER FEELINGS SHOW.
YOU COULD END UP LIKE THAT...
NATURALLY, IF YOU LEAD A LIFE KILLING PEOPLE WITH ONLY A TOUCH,
I GET THAT FEELING ABOUT HER FROM WHAT I SAW.
BUT SOME-HOW...

BUT LIKE I WAS BACK IN KOU.
NOT FROM AFTER I CAME TO THE CONTINENT,
BUT IT SEEMED FAMILIAR.
I DON'T REALLY REMEMBER ALL THAT WELL.
HMM...
THAT SAID, COULD IT JUST BE YOUR IMAGI-NATION?
LET ME PULL OVER.
THE HANDGUNS THAT WERE HELD DURING YOUR TALK WITH THE COMMANDER WERE NOT RETURNED.
OH, THAT'S RIGHT!

THEY WERE MADE IN THE COUNTRY OF RO, RIGHT?
I'M VERY INTERESTED.
WOULD IT BE ALRIGHT IF I TRIED ONE OUT?

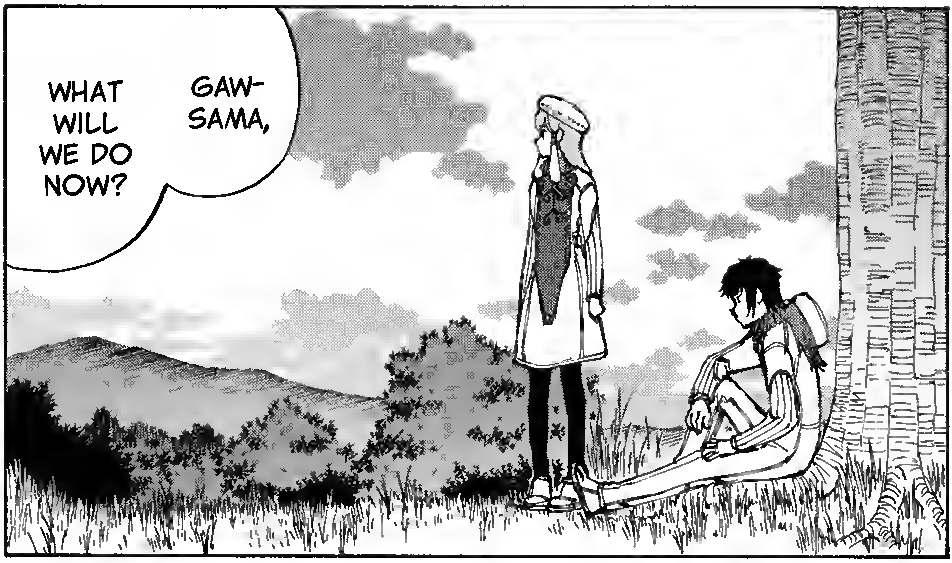
WE GOT 'EM FROM A POWERFUL LORD.
TRADED FROM THE RO MILITARY, RIGHT? I WONDER IF THIS ONE WAS, TOO.
EVEN BANDITS USE THESE PRETTY OFTEN.
PLENTY OF KOLI HAVE FALLEN TO ITS BULLETS.

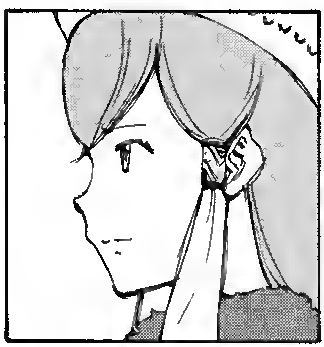

BANG
BANG
B... BOSS?!


THE BLEEDING HASN'T STOPPED.
WORSE, IT'S NEAR AN ARTERY.
I CAN'T RISK TAKING IT OUT.

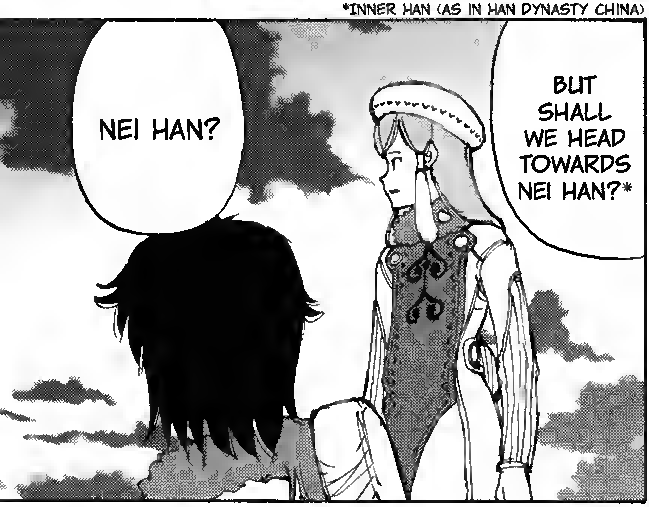
TO STOP KILLING.
YOU TOLD ME
WEREN'T YOU MOUTHING OFF BACK THERE?
FA,
SMACK

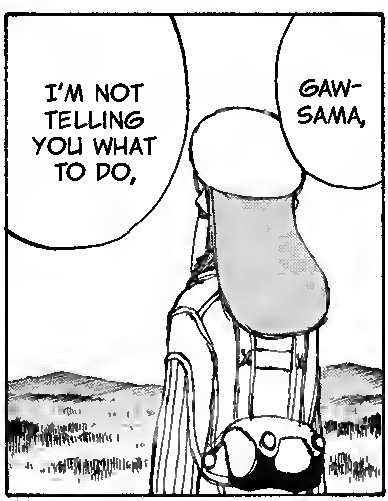
KUH!
DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO.
YES SIR.





*INNER HAN (AS IN HAN DYNASTY CHINA)

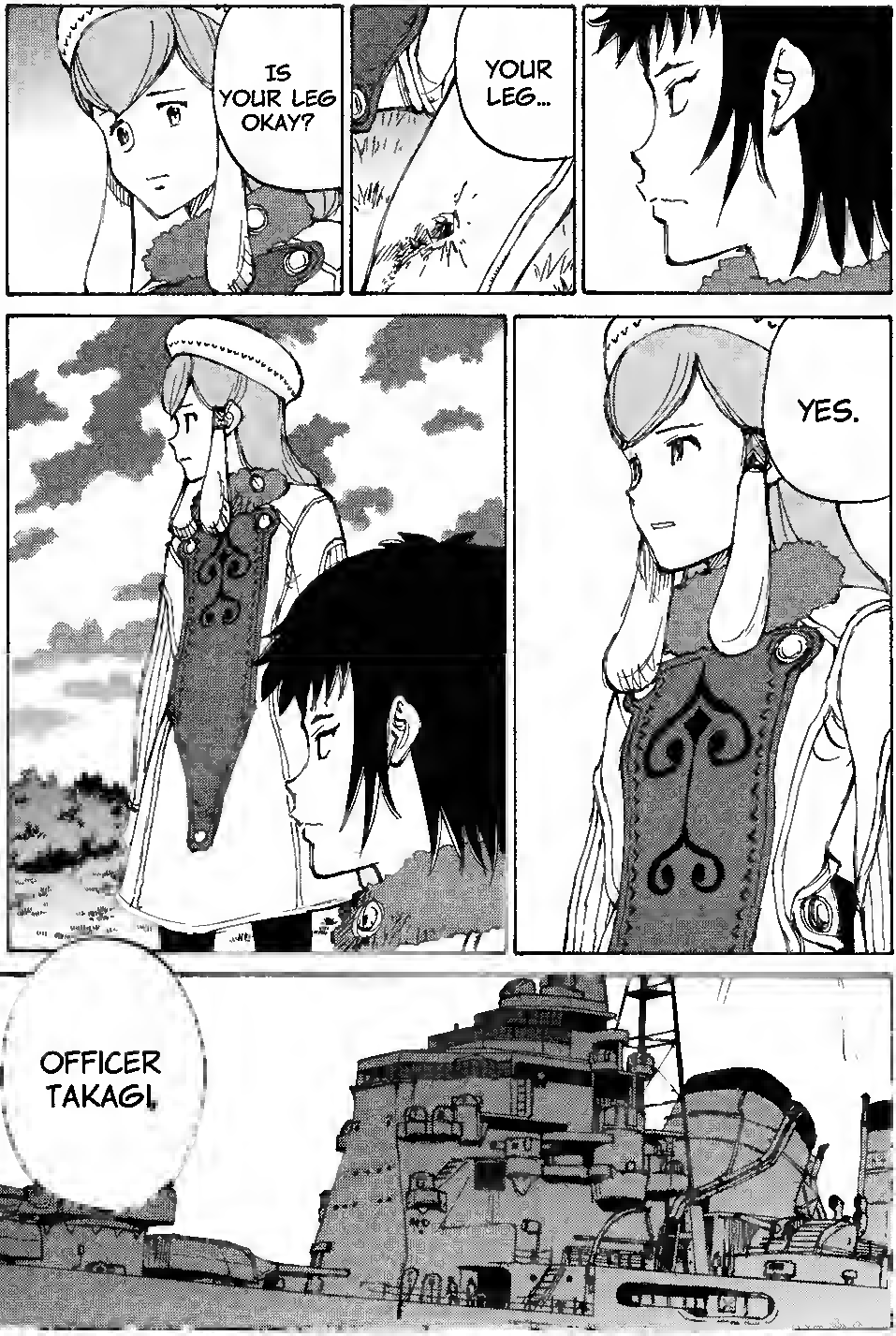


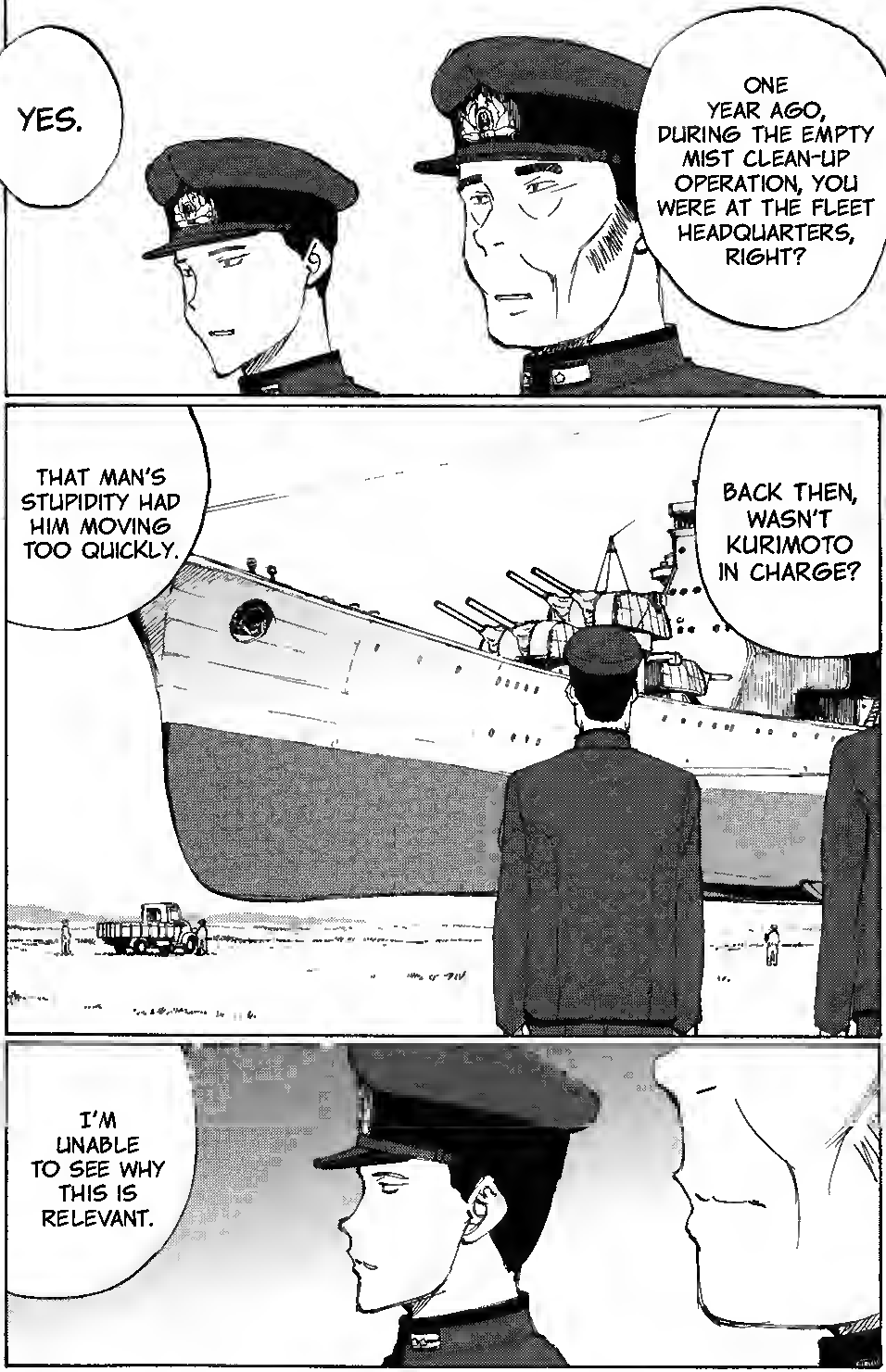


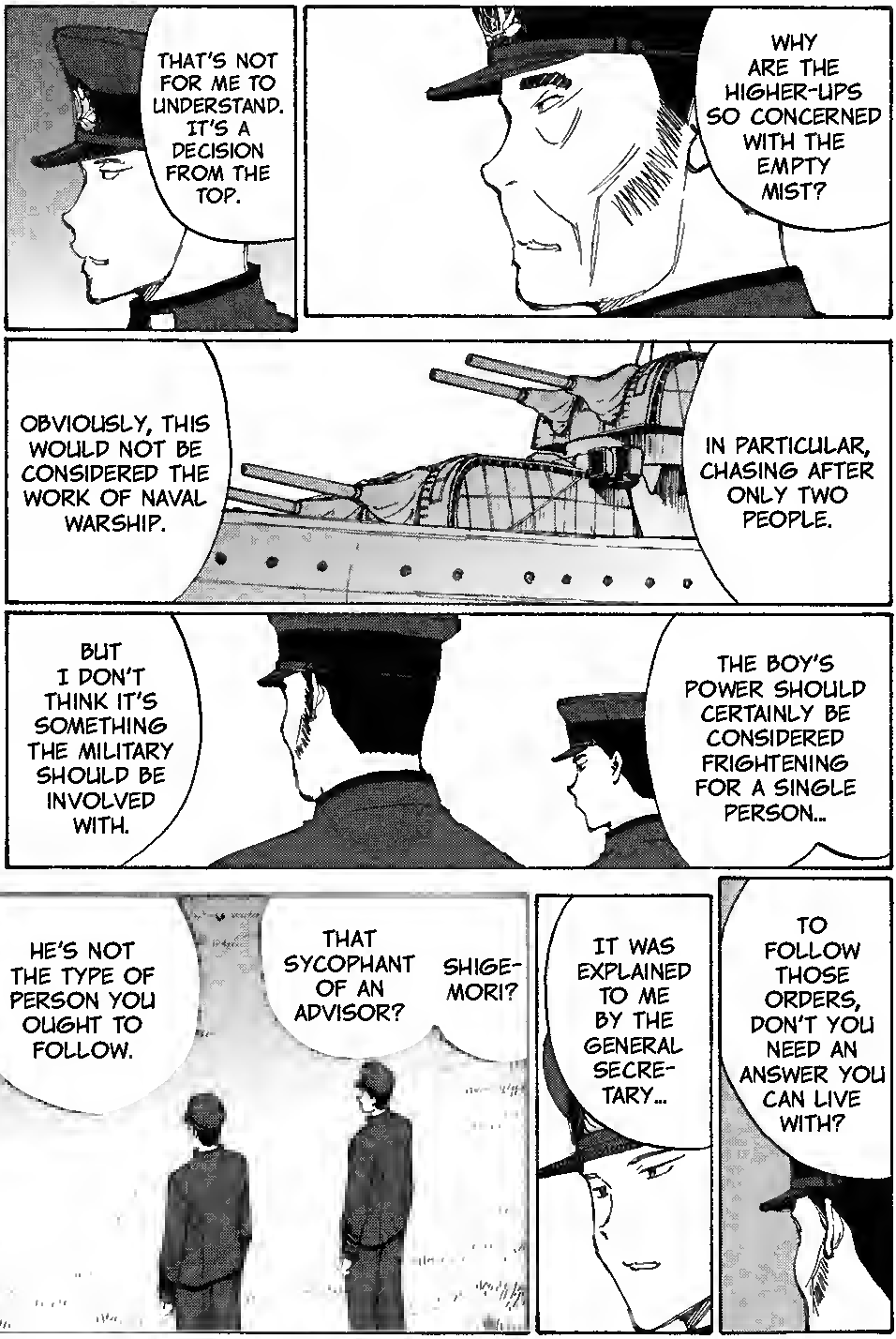
WHERE THE KONG XIA FELL.
WHY SHOULD I?
EVEN THOUGH I'VE BEEN RUNNING FROM THERE UP TO NOW.
IT'S BEEN ALMOST A YEAR, HASN'T IT?
SO?
I WOULD LIKE TO GRIEVE FOR THE DEAD.

THE KONG XIA HAVE NO SUCH CUSTOM.
THOSE THAT DIE...
THOSE THAT DIE ARE AT FAULT.
THEY WERE WEAK.
THE TIAN LING WERE ALSO WEAK.
NOW THAT THEY'RE DEAD, THERE'S NO HELPING THEM.

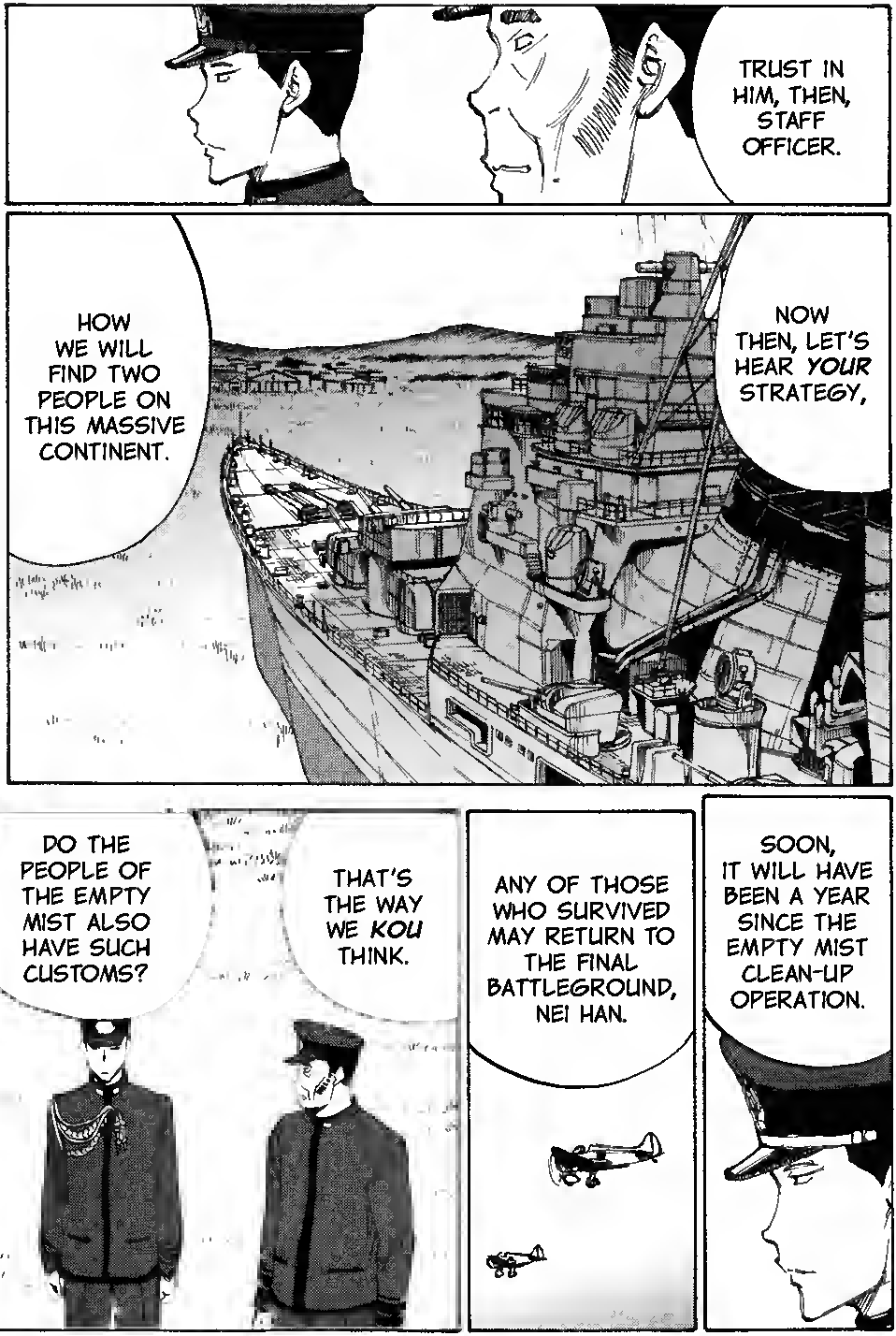
DANCE FOR THEM.
PLEASE, LET ME...
WE NEVER SAW WHAT BECAME OF THAT PLACE.
GAW-SAMA, YOU SAVED ME IN THE MIDST OF THE CHAOS AND RAN.
WHAT'S MORE, SURVIVORS MAY HAVE RETURNED.


IS YOUR LEG OKAY?
YOUR LEG...
YES.
OFFICER TAKAGI


YES.
ONE YEAR AGO, DURING THE EMPTY MIST CLEAN-UP OPERATION, YOU WERE AT THE FLEET HEADQUARTERS, RIGHT?
THAT MAN'S STUPIDITY HAD HIM MOVING TOO QUICKLY.
BACK THEN, WASN'T KURIMOTO IN CHARGE?
I'M UNABLE TO SEE WHY THIS IS RELEVANT.


THAT'S NOT FOR ME TO UNDERSTAND. IT'S A DECISION FROM THE TOP.
WHY ARE THE HIGHER-UPS SO CONCERNED WITH THE EMPTY MIST?
OBVIOUSLY, THIS WOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED THE WORK OF NAVAL WARSHIP.
IN PARTICULAR, CHASING AFTER ONLY TWO PEOPLE.
BUT I DON'T THINK IT'S SOMETHING THE MILITARY SHOULD BE INVOLVED WITH.
THE BOY'S POWER SHOULD CERTAINLY BE CONSIDERED FRIGHTENING FOR A SINGLE PERSON...
HE'S NOT THE TYPE OF PERSON YOU OUGHT TO FOLLOW.
THAT SYCOPHANT OF AN ADVISOR?
SHIGE-MORI?
IT WAS EXPLAINED TO ME BY THE GENERAL SECRE-TARY...
TO FOLLOW THOSE ORDERS, DON'T YOU NEED AN ANSWER YOU CAN LIVE WITH?

IS HIS IMPERIAL HIGHNESS.
THE ONLY PERSON WE SERVE
I SUP-POSE THAT'S FINE.
FINALLY, YOU'VE SPOKEN YOUR MIND.
I BELIEVE THAT THE EMPEROR AND SOMEONE WHO SERVES HIM IN MATTERS OF STATE ARE ONE AND THE SAME.
HIS HIGHNESS IS STILL QUITE YOUNG.
YOU SPEAK TOO FAR.
NOT SOME ADVISOR.


TRUST IN HIM, THEN, STAFF OFFICER.
NOW THEN, LET'S HEAR *YOUR* STRATEGY,
HOW WE WILL FIND TWO PEOPLE ON THIS MASSIVE CONTINENT.
ANY OF THOSE WHO SURVIVED MAY RETURN TO THE FINAL BATTLEGROUND, NEI HAN.
SOON, IT WILL HAVE BEEN A YEAR SINCE THE EMPTY MIST CLEAN-UP OPERATION.
DO THE PEOPLE OF THE EMPTY MIST ALSO HAVE SUCH CUSTOMS?
THAT'S THE WAY WE *KOU* THINK.

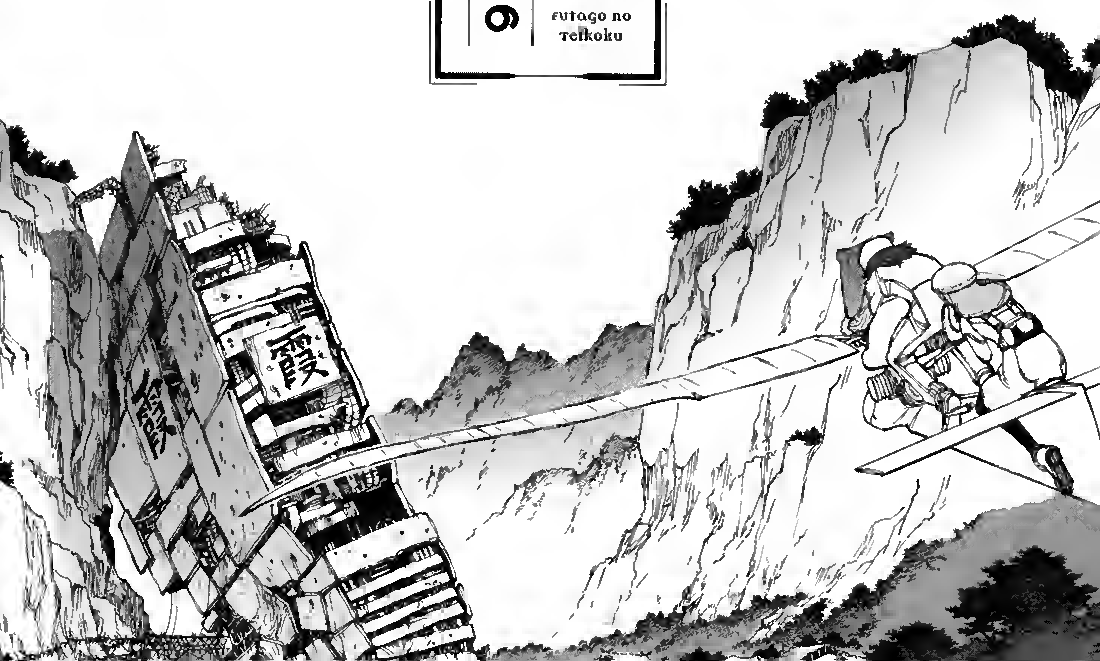
WELL, THAT'S FINE.
I'M AFRAID I DON'T KNOW.
WE'LL SET OUR COURSE TOWARDS NEI HAN.
LOOKING OVER THE SITE OF THE EMPTY MIST CLEAN-UP OPERATION ISN'T A BAD IDEA.

At the final resting place of the Empty Mist, what will those two find?

双子の帝國 2

futago no teikoku

On sale Fall 2016



Futago no Teikoku

By Mohiro Kitoh

Presented by

Breading Bad Scans

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Editing: Dobu

Thank you for reading!

See you in the Fall

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